

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a current listing of the claims.

1. (currently amended): An apparatus for aspirating and dispensing liquid analytes, comprising:
 - a microtitre plate with a plurality of wells for holding an analyte therein[[:]]
 - a plurality of pipettes, corresponding with each well; by which an analyte can be withdrawn from said corresponding wells if the pipettes are immersed into the analyte of the corresponding wells;[[:]]
 - at least one pump, which is coupled to a plurality of said pipettes in such a way that an analyte in each well is transferred through corresponding pipette by means of the pump,[[:]] wherein analytes can be simultaneously aspirated out of a plurality of said wells or introduced into a plurality of said wells by actuating the pump;[[:]]
 - ~~the apparatus further comprising~~ a plurality of analysis chips arranged in an intermediate plate for analyzing the analyte and a plurality of corresponding chambers[[:]] ; and
 - wherein said analysis chips correspond respectively with each well in order to analyze an analyte introduced into each respective well, wherein each analysis chip comprises a plurality of liquid channels, wherein each analysis chip is arranged between a respective chamber in a flow path of the analyte from a well into a pipette and into a chamber or from a chamber into a pipette and into a well; wherein the analyte is transferred

through the liquid channels of the analysis chip into a chamber or out of a chamber, respectively, and wherein a portion of a surface area of the liquid channels of the analysis chips comes into contact with the analyte, said surface area is constructed to allow biological material for binding molecules contained in the analyte to be fixed thereon.

2. (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising upper bodies coupled to lower bodies, the lower bodies comprising the pipettes, wherein the intermediate plate is arranged between the upper bodies and the lower bodies.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a portion of the surface of the liquid channels that comes into contact with the analyte, further comprises biological material for binding molecules contained in the analyte.

7. (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the microtitre plate comprises 96 wells or 384 wells.

8. (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising an elastic, pump-diaphragm is arranged over at least one of the pipettes, so that an analyte can be aspirated out of the corresponding well or introduced into the corresponding well by deforming the diaphragm.

9. (previously presented): The apparatus according to Claim 1, in which a buffer plate is provided for each pipette, in order to mix the analyte delivered by the pipette.

10. (canceled)

11. (new) An apparatus for analyzing an analyte, comprising:

a microtitre plate having a plurality of wells;

a plurality of pipettes;

a plurality of analysis chips, each analysis chip containing probe molecules for analyzing the analyte, and being associated with one well of said plurality of wells and with one pipette of said plurality of pipettes; and
a pumping means for passing the analyte through the channels of the analysis chips, thereby contacting the probe molecules, by extracting the analyte from or introducing the analyte, through the pipettes, into the wells.

12. (new) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein each of the analysis chips has a plurality of channels through which the analyte can pass, and wherein the probe molecules are contained in the channels.

13. (new) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the probe molecules of the analysis chips are macromolecular biopolymers.

14. (new) The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a plurality of buffer plates in the flow path of the analyte for improving the contact between the analyte and the probe molecules of the analysis chips.

15. (new) The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a plate on which the plurality of analysis chips are fitted.

16. (new) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the pumping means is operated such that the pressure applied to the analyte does not exceed the pressure required to overcome the surface tension of the analyte in the pipettes.

17. (new) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the pumping means is operated such that the pressure applied to the analyte does not exceed the pressure required to overcome the surface tension of the analyte in the pipettes.